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DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Now I shall put Mr. Palaniyandi's amendment to vote. The question is—

'*Add* at the end—

" and to take steps to assign all cultivable waste lands both with the Government and with private landlords to the landless poor giving preference to Harijans." ' "

The amendment was lost.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Does Mr. Narayanan Nambiar withdraw his amendment or press it? "

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" My amendment is intended to put the resolution in order. Therefore, the necessity for withdrawal does not arise."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' *Add* at the end—

" and also to take suitable steps to lease all remaining poramboke lands including those in the possession of landlords and rich peasants to landless and poor peasants on a permanent basis." ' "

The amendment was lost.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I shall put the main Resolution to vote. The question is—

' This Assembly recommends to the Government to grant to landless peasants pattas for any lands which they may have unauthorizedly cultivated and for which penal assessment (sivaoi-jama) may have been levied from them.' "

The motion was lost.

(3) DECLARATION OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF SREE NARAYANA GURU DEV AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I move— 4-40 p.m.

' *This Assembly recommends to the Government to declare the birth-day of Sree Narayana Guru Dev a public holiday throughout the Madras State.*' "

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" I second the motion, Sir."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Resolution moved—

' That this Assembly recommends to the Government to declare the birth-day of Sree Narayana Guru Dev a public holiday throughout the Madras State.' "

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* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move this resolution because it is the wish of the Malayalee people in Madras State to see that the birthday of Sree Narayana Guru Dev is declared a public holiday. Sir, in Travancore-Cochin State the birth-day as well as the Samadhi or the demise day of Sree Narayana Guru are declared public holidays. I appeal to the Government to declare the birthday of Guru Dev as a holiday throughout the State.

" By all Malayalees Sree Guru Dev is held in high esteem. He is worshipped in each house. Sree Narayana Guru Dev is considered as one of the greatest sons of Kerala, nay of our country. He was one of the greatest social reformers of Kerala. It is the national tradition in our land to respect our heroes and our great men. Sree Guru Dev is one of the greatest of our heroes. That is why I have moved this resolution for declaring his birth-day as a holiday. Sri Narayana Guru Dev was the greatest fighter against the feudal system, against the caste system that existed during his time in Kerala and in the country. He carried on a relentless fight against the two evils of caste system and the feudal system. It was due to him that the depressed classes' case came into prominence. In the house of every Harijan, every depressed classman, one can see his photo which is worshipped everyday.

" In such a high esteem he is held throughout Malabar. As I have said in Travancore-Cochin his birthday as well as the Samadhi day are declared public holidays. The Chief Minister of Madras, the Agricultural Minister and the Hon. Speaker of this Assembly had visited Malabar during the birthday celebrations of Sree Narayana Guru Dev this year. They would have seen for themselves the high esteem, in which throughout Malabar, the Guru Dev is held. They would have realised for themselves how the Malayalees felt about Sree Guru Dev. They would have seen themselves the pomp and splendour with which the Malayalees celebrated his birthday. That is why I have moved this resolution of mine to declare his birth-day as a public holiday, thus respecting the feelings of the Malayalees.

" Sree Narayana Guru Dev was the person who fought against untouchability, against caste system and against the feudal system. He was dead against untouchability. The horrors of caste system as it existed in Malabar were terrible indeed. I shall give some example. In Malabar one person belonging to the depressed classes was appointed as a clerk. When he went to the Huzur Collector's office, he was not given a table but he was given a mat to sit, because he came from a depressed class. One man belonging to the depressed class passed his B.A. and requested for an employment in Travancore-Cochin. He was denied employment because he happened to be a depressed class man. In Travancore-Cochin whenever a depressed class man had to give

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evidence in Court, two or three peons used to stand in a queue and they would repeat the words of the depressed class man and evidence would be taken thus. This shows the horrors of caste-system existed there. I have given the example only to show the horrors of caste-system.

"Sree Narayana Guru Dev came to the scene. This caste-system, he decided to fight with all his power. To that end, he suffered, he toiled and he triumphed. He has built about 60 temples throughout Malabar and Kerala, not only in Kerala but also in South Kanara, I mean in Mangalore. He respected the feelings of the depressed classes. He was the foremost of social reformers of Kerala. It was he who started the campaign against the caste-system, which later on paved the way to strengthen the national movement. That is why his picture is hung in every depressed class man's house and is worshipped. It was he who toiled for communal harmony. Even Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and other great leaders used to consult him. I know full well the part he played in 'Vaikom Satyagraha'. We all gave our support to it. It was he who organized industrial exhibitions and brought the case of the depressed classes to the forefront.

"I know that "Sathayam Nal" is celebrated as a national day throughout Malabar and Travancore-Cochin. Not only has he built great temples throughout the length and breadth of Kerala, but he also has built many high schools and colleges. He fought for justice. He fought for social reform. He devoted his lifetime for the achievement of his ideals. He fought for the depressed classes, for the poor and the down-trodden. He has become a national leader. He has found many depressed-classes organizations among which the S. N. D. P. Yogam is one. He has fought in the national struggle along with the greatest leader of Kerala, I mean Sri T. K. Madhavan.

"I know that there have been very great patriots, very great men in Tamilnad also who have got to be respected like Narayana Guru Dev in Kerala. We have to observe their birth-days. To make a beginning, I have moved my resolution for declaring Guru Dev's birthday as a public holiday. I do not want to enter into a controversy with the Government. Guru Dev fought for the down-trodden and the poor. He is held as a great leader and saint throughout Kerala. He was one of our greatest social reformers. When such is his eminence, is it not desirable that we should respect him and celebrate his birth-day in a fitting manner?

"Therefore I request that the Government would sympathetically consider my resolution and grant public-holiday for the birthday of Sree Narayana Guru Dev, the man whom all Malayalees hold in very high esteem.

"With these words I resume my seat."

4-50 p.m. * SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is with great humility that I stand to support this resolution. Sir, these are days when we pay ample lip sympathy to great men but are unable to translate their principles into action. My humility is due to the fact that I have not been able very much to practise in my life the exalted principles for which Sri Narayana Guru Dev is reputed. Sir, I feel glad that he is gaining universal approbation. He was a great man and a great religious man too. As has been pointed out by the mover of this resolution, he was the champion of the depressed and down-trodden. He fought bitterly casteism and communalism but he fought it not on principles of class or communal hatred but with the weapon of love. He laid before us certain important principles. His one principle was 'one caste, one religion and one God'. He stated 'Let the man be good. The religion may be secondary consideration'. When we read this, we are reminded of the noble sayings of Swami Vivekananda who said 'If a religion makes a Hindu a better Hindu, a Christian a better Christian, a Mussalman a better Mussalman, then that is the true religion'. Another thing which Sri Narayana Guru Dev inculcated into the minds of the people was 'Do not tap, do not sell and do not drink toddy'. That was one of the great principles which he taught his community and made the people of Kerala rise to their heights. As I have already said, though such noble principles have been enunciated and we pay lip sympathies to them, it is very seldom that we are able to act up to them, nay, sometimes we preach and do things quite contrary to these noble saying and sentiments. Sree Narayana Guru Dev does not want any memorial or that his birthday should be made a public holiday. In declaring his birthday as a holiday, we are not honouring him but honouring ourselves."

* SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have seconded this resolution and I respectfully join in having the resolution commended to this House for acceptance. Sri Narayana Guru Dev, whose centenary celebrations rang round the ends of Kerala just recently and in which many of our Hon. Ministers and even the Hon. Speaker participated, has been greatly respected by all the people of Kerala. I may not be wrong in describing him as the great 'Kerala Karma Yogi' and he has done what few have been able to achieve. He is the prophet of a new age and the pilot of a new social order. What he did was to run a crusade against feudalism and not merely against feudalism but against priest-craft which was so strongly entrenched itself in the whole of Travancore-Cochin that it required all the might and main of such a great man like Sri Narayana Guru Dev to defy and then to defeat the priest-craft and all those who had flocked behind the banner of priest-craft and feudalism. Such a greatman cannot be the property of one State or one district and

Kerala cannot claim him as its private property or its own asset. Such great men are the asset of the whole country. By declaring his birthday as a holiday, we will be declaring that Sri Narayana Guru is a universal possession. Sri Narayana Guru Dev is certainly the proud possession of the whole of Madras State and on that day all Madrasis should pay homage to him and spend their time in rejoicing in honour of the great man who has inaugurated a new era in Kerala and elsewhere. His message of secularism, as was pointed out by the hon. Member Sri Narayana Kurup, is ' one caste, one religion and one God ' ஒரு ஜாதி ஒரு மதம் ஒரு தெய்வம் The whole human family is one according to him. What firmer foundation for a secular state can be laid? My request to the Hon. the Minister for Education is that his inspiring sayings should be included in the curricula of our schools. All his sayings are inspiring and his actions are so very telling that they could form part of the curricula which will mould the new youth that is yet to come in the new Bharat of ours. So I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House because it is a resolution by which we honour not merely Kerala but we strengthen the bonds between Kerala and Tamil Nad. Not only that, we bring to bear upon the whole State a Madrasi outlook, that is a united outlook. More than all that, he is really a prophet and a pioneer. He is really the pilot of a new era. There would be nothing wrong and it would be propitious if we declare his birthday as a holiday. I therefore commend to this House the acceptance of this resolution."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, while commending the resolution for the acceptance of this House, I have to state only one or two points. The most important is his commandments about the caste system. They are ' do not ask caste, do not say caste, do not think caste and do not observe caste '. His four commandments are therefore very important. Sri Narayana Guru is the pioneer of prohibition in Kerala, I would say, in the whole of India. He compared tapping fermented toddy to a heinous act. He compared the coconut tree to the *Kalpaka Vriksham* and said that it was a sin to cut the bunch of the coconut palm to make fermented toddy. He is therefore the pioneer of the prohibition movement. Sri Narayana Guru Dev wanted to establish cottage industries in Kerala and he was not against cottage industries. Following the footpath of Sri Narayana Guru, we do not want this prohibition to be completely scrapped, but we want sweet toddy for jaggery. By social persuations and education, etc., we can make the people observe prohibition. Another important point I want to say is about his ' man-making business '. Sri Narayana Guru wanted people to think in terms of men and women and not

in terms of caste and religion. Nowadays people divide the society into Brahmins, Dravidians, Aryans and so on. But his call to the humanity was ' Be human beings first and be kind to all your brethren '. These are some of his valuable teachings and by accepting this resolution, we would not only be honouring the great social reformer but our State and our citizens and also the whole country."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The discussion will continue on the next non-official day. The House will now adjourn and meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m."

The House then adjourned.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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